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INDIA GETS ACCESS TO SPECIAL GLOBAL ANTI-CRIME NETWORK

Indian agencies can now instantly check Interpol's 126 million records, including DNA profiles and facial recognition images

AGENCIES CAN TRACK ABSCONDING CRIMINALS

The new facility will help India's investigating agencies track absconding criminals and tackle transnational crimes. "India has already seen significant results," said Jürgen Stock, secretary-general, Interpol, who is in Delhi to attend the 90th General Assembly of Interpol. Delegations from over 190 countries are attending the four-day event, starting Tuesday

PAK SILENT ON DAWOOD'S WHEREABOUTS

- Mohsin Butt (pic), the chief of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, put his finger on his lip to indicate silence when reporters asked him about handing over Dawood Ibrahim to India
- Speaking at the same event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Interpol to speed up Red Corner Notices against fugitives | P9

20 million

NO. OF TIMES INTERPOL'S DATABASE IS CHECKED EACH DAY BY GLOBAL AGENCIES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

3 cave-ins in 4 weeks on Sankey Tank Rd set off alarm

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

THREE cave-ins in four weeks on Sankey Tank Road in Bengaluru have set off alarm bells for the authorities as they appear to indicate a possible breach that could be disastrous for people living in the adjoining low-lying area of Vyalikaval. The road is on the dam-like structure that separates the lake water spread over 37 acres from Vyalikaval which houses thousands of families in the vicinity of the famous Chowdiah Memorial Hall.

BBMP has admitted to the seriousness of the situation. After two cave-ins on the Sankey Tank Road surface last month — which forced the authorities to seal the traffic lane towards Yeshwanthpur and fill up the caved-in sections — the BBMP has again sealed the same lane after the third cave-in on Sunday.

BS Prahalad, BBMP Chief Engineer (Road and Infrastructure), said, "Sankey Tank Road has become a grave issue and we're taking it seriously. There is some seepage occurring under the road, but we have yet to pinpoint the location. While the seepage might be anywhere, it will affect some parts of the road, we are trying to identify ingress."

A breach in Sankey Tank will spell a disaster for residents in nearby areas | NAGARAJA SADIKAL

It is suspected that roots of trees on the slope are growing inside the structure which could be causing hollows leading to cave-ins. Prahalad said an agency has been hired to assess the damage to the road that is not visible to the eye. CONTINUED ON: P2

Jaya death: Panel indicts Sasi, faults ex-minister, food secy

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

THE Arumughaswamy Commission, which inquired into the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, has indicted **VK Sasikala**, her close aide of more than three decades, and found fault with her as well as then Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, then Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan (now Food secretary) and Dr KS Sivakumar, a relative of Sasikala who was the late CM's physician.

"Considering various aspects, the Commission is constrained to come to no other conclusion, but to indict VK Sasikala. She and KS Sivakumar, Dr C Vijayabaskar and J Radhakrishnan have to be found at fault and an investigation should be ordered against them," the 480-page report said.

After the report was tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday, Tamil Nadu government issued an order (G.O) dated October 17 stating it would act on the panel's recommendations after getting 'considered opinions' from legal experts as decided by the State Cabinet in its August 29 meeting.

Asking why Jayalalithaa's heart condition was not treated as recommended by some of the consulting doctors, the Commission also recommended a probe be initiated against then Chief Secretary Rama Mohana Rao as well as Dr YVC Reddy and Dr Babu Abraham of the hospital where she was treated.

"Dr YVC Reddy and Dr Babu Abraham treated the late CM all along and though they invited doctors from Mumbai, UK and USA and got an opinion from them, apart from the hospital's own doctor, suggesting doing angio/surgery, they successfully threw it to the wind on the pretext of postponing it, to achieve their aim under some pressure," the report said.

The Commission found criminality against Rama Mohana Rao. "Except that he had not addressed a letter and intimated to the government regarding his signature in 21 forms on various dates for the procedural aspects... Of course, it is a man-made vital lapse and he would reap the consequences, especially because the life of the late CM was involved. Hence, an investigation is to be ordered," it added.

The Commission also questioned the delay in officially declaring Jayalalitha's death. It said the hospital declared the date and time of her death as December 5, 2016, at 11.30 pm. But, on the basis of evidence submitted, it concluded she died on December 4, 2016, between 3pm and 3.50 pm.

"There is a gross variation with the version of the paramedical personnel who physically attended to the late CM when she was sinking in her hospital bed," the Commis sion said.

EXPRESS READ

Woman pillion rider, hit by bus, succumbs

Bengaluru: Uma Devi (47), who suffered serious injuries after falling from a two-wheeler and being run over by a KSRTC bus in Bengaluru on Monday morning, succumbed to her injuries the same night. Uma was riding pillion and her daughter, who was riding the two-wheeler, lost control and fell down while trying to avoid a pothole. P2

Pune case puts K'taka on alert for new variants

Bengaluru: With Pune in Maharashtra reporting the first BQ.1 case in India, neighbouring Karnataka is on high alert to check emergence of new variants of Omicron. Genomic sequencing labs have been alerted to identify the new variants. With the festive season round the corner, experts have raised concerns that the new virus can lead to a rise in cases. P3

Honour killing: Bagalkot couple hacked

MAHESH M GOUDAR & VITTAL BALAKUNDI @ Bagalkot

IN a suspected case of honour killing, a 24-year-old man and an 18-year-old girl were hacked to death by the family members of the girl in Bagalkot.

The victims are Vishwanath Nelgi, a daily wage labourer, and Rajeshwari Karadi, both residents of Bevinamatti village near Bagalkot. The incident reportedly occurred on September 30 and came to light after the police launched an investigation after a kidnap complaint was filed by the family members of the deceased girl.

A police officer said, "The man and girl were in a relationship for the past two years. When it came to the knowledge of the girl's family, they strongly opposed it by saying that the boy belonged to a lower caste. Both families have had an altercation in the past over the issue of caste."

Vishwanath Nelgi Rajeshwari Karadi

Three persons, Ravi Bevinamatti, Hanumanth Bevinamatti and Beerappa Dalavi, have been arrested in connection with the case. CONTINUED ON: P5

ACCUSED OF THEFT, DALIT MAN DIES AFTER ASSAULT

Tumakuru: A Dalit man died at a hospital, days after he was beaten up by his employer for allegedly stealing bananas from his farm at Itaka Dibbanahalli village in Madhugiri taluk. The victim is Purushottam Prasad (35). The accused Balaji Reddy of Kalenahalli has been arrested. On September 29, Prasad went to the accused to demand his wages for working in his plantain farm. Accusing him of stealing bananas, the accused along with others subjected him to torture and handed him over to the Kodigenahalli police. SP Rahul Kumar Shahpurwad denied allegations by some Dalit forums that the police tortured the victim. ENS

This Diwali, you can burst crackers for only 2 hrs/day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued a circular allowing bursting of firecrackers during Diwali for two hours between 8 pm and 10 pm every day.

The order makes it clear that only green crackers will be allowed and crackers that add to noise pollution are banned.

The circular says that the BBMP chief commissioner, city police commissioner, Fire and Emergency Services Department, district administrations and Health Department should follow guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court on bursting of firecrackers. Directions have been issued to all districts to measure air and sound pollution on all seven days before and after the festival. CONTINUED ON: P3

Locals at the site after a helicopter carrying pilgrims crashed near Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Tuesday | PTI

Chopper crash kills seven in Kedarnath

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

ALL seven persons onboard a helicopter were killed when the chopper crashed into a hill amid dense fog, soon after taking off from Kedarnath on Tuesday. The helicopter was ferrying six pilgrims — three each from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu — from Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi.

The dead pilgrims have been identified as Poorva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Brar (30) and Urvi Brar (25) from Gujarat, and Sujatha Premkumar (56), Premkumar Vanchinathan and Kala Ramesh (60) from Tamil Nadu. Pilot Anil Singh (57), hailed from Maharashtra.

Reports said the chopper — a Bell 407 operated by Aryan Aviation — crashed into a hill 2 km away and burst into flames at around 11.45 am at Dev Darshini in Rudraprayag's Garud Chatti, within a few seconds of taking off.

Following the accident, all heliservices to and from Kedarnath were stopped.

Officials said prima-facie, the cause appears to be bad weather, adding that teams of Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and aviation regulator DGCA will probe the crash. Aryan Aviation and four other operators flying on the Kedarnath Yatra route were recently fined ₹5 lakh by the DGCA for violations.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the loss of lives.

Railway underpass for reptiles in W Ghats soon

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is working on a proposal to install 'U-shaped ditches' under the existing railway tracks passing through the wildlife corridors of the Western Ghats in order to save turtles, reptiles and other creatures.

In a letter to Minister of MoEFCC Bhupendra Yadav and Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, a wildlife activist from Mangaluru, Nagaraj Devadiga has drawn their attention to many creatures getting injured or killed while crossing the railway tracks in the Western Ghats and urged them to build U-shaped concrete ditches between Kabaka Puttur and Hassan (139 km) which comes under the South Western Railway.

Turtles having a smooth cross-over through a U-shaped ditch built under a railway track in Japan

"Western Ghats is home to at least 325 globally threatened species, including 51 critically endangered ones. Of these, 28 species of freshwater turtles (two of which are endangered), 91 species of snakes, 75 species of crabs and four species of lizards migrate to other parts of Western Ghats for breeding and while doing so, they get injured or killed while crossing the tracks," Devadiga said. P5

> In April 2015, the West Japan Railways created U-shaped concrete ditches under tracks enabling turtles and other creatures to crawl to the other side without getting run over by trains
>
> Nagaraj Devadiga, wildlife activist

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